

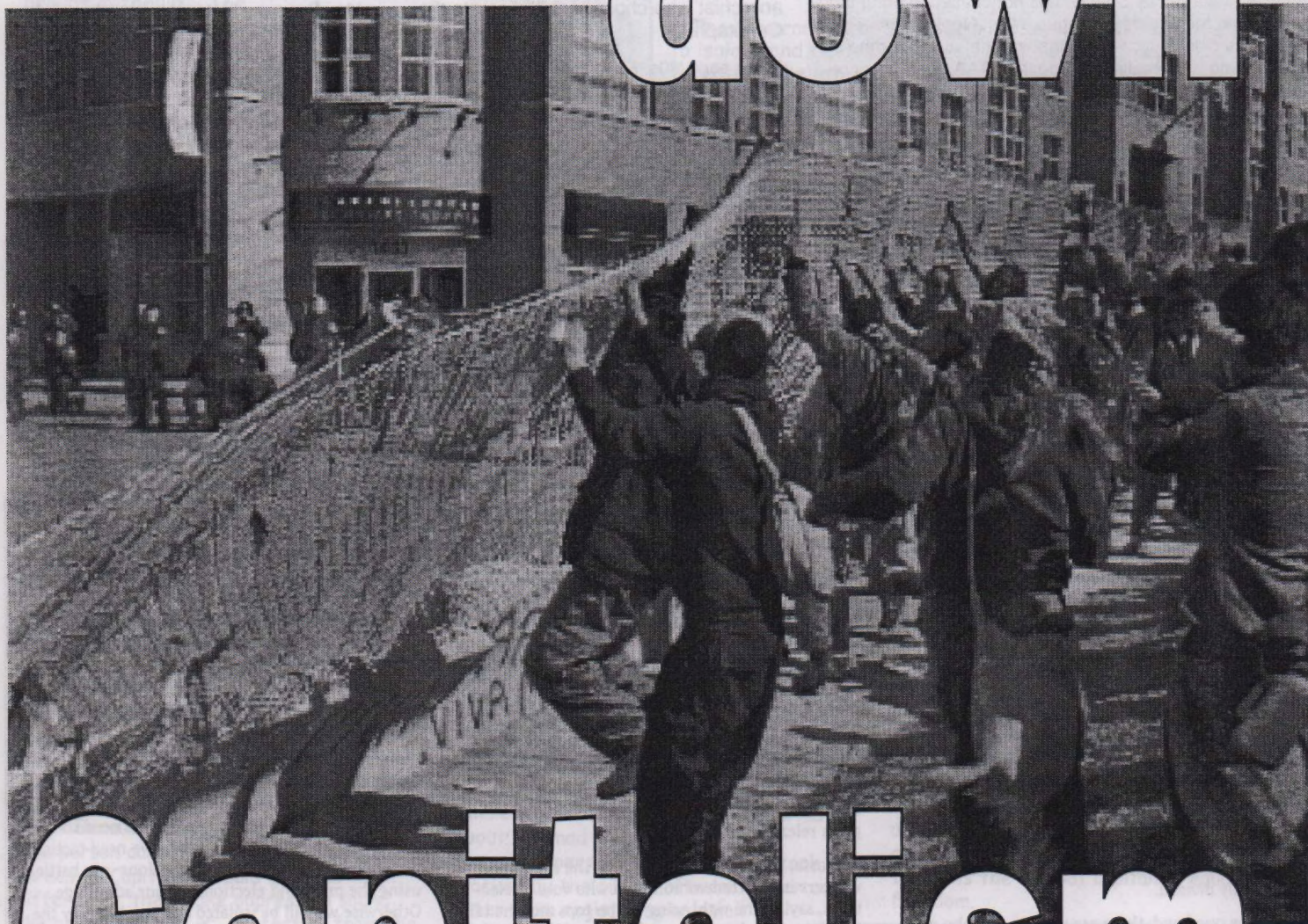
# REVOLUTION

socialist youth newspaper  
ISSUE 44 • May 01 • 30p/donation

The fences & robocops  
belong to the billionaires -

we are the  
billions, and the  
future belongs to us:

# tear down



# Capitalism

next stop... Genoa

Quebec...terrorism bill...  
George Bush's militarism...  
Israel...Colombia...fas-  
cism... Blair vs homeless...  
Mayday hysteria

# QUEBEC

## FTAA demos

Two to four miles of concrete anchored chain-linked fence makes Quebec City centre look more like a modern east Berlin than a city in the 'land of the free.' 6,700 riot police and 1,200 troops have been deployed to protect the leaders of 34 countries of the Americas (all except Cuba) meeting for the third summit of the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, yet another dodgy free trade agreement.

25,000 anti-capitalists have mobilised to show these leaders the growing discontent against capitalism and the joke that is the corporate-run 'democracy'. The week long People's Sum-mit, which got live television coverage, contrasted sharply with the secrecy and bureaucracy of the Americas summit. Now the anti-capitalists have taken to the streets en masse.

Police reacted violently with tear gas and baton charges but the protestors retaliated by removing part of the fence, and throwing bottles and cans at the police. Once again it is obvious that our comrades across the world are not prepared to stand back and watch our beautiful planet being trampled over by the ruling class. The international movement, kick-started by Seattle, has not ceased to bring thousands onto the streets in Prague, Nice, Naples, etc. The protestors didn't succeed in stopping the summit or the signatures and handshakes closing the FTAA deal, but once again the leaders of the world and their dodgy dealings have been exposed for all the world to see, and the most radical to take heart at.

We can see from the Mayday media in the UK that the state is scared of the effects of the mass protest and we cannot let up the pressure. We have seen that the negotiating table has not, will not and, fundamentally, cannot change the appalling system so there is only one solution - take to the streets, raise your voice and support the movement which will be fighting for humanity in London and Genoa in the coming months.

by Tom  
in Dulwich

"letter from Genoa" p. 7



Recia in Streatham

"...the reason you should not go on these actions is because the organisers do not wish to convince the public of their objectives. Instead they want to carry out individual acts of defiance whose main impact will be to alienate the vast majority."

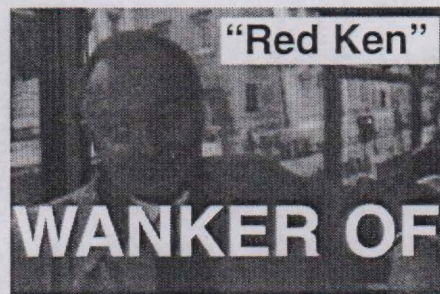
"On my inauguration last year, I said that my administration will be as intolerant of the racist police officer as it will of the anarchist who chooses to desecrate the Cenotaph."

In the early '80s Ken Livingstone, was painted as a "Marxist threat to London" backing "zany left wing causes that alienated ordinary

people" by the press. Twenty years later he is doing the same against the Mayday organisers, going along with the media representation of protesters as violent anarchists. Despite the fact that May Day is traditionally an international workers' day, he asks that anyone who has any sympathy with the aims of eradicating poverty and ending environmental pollution does not attend the protests on May 1st.

If, as he suggests, more of an effort should be made to "maximise peaceful participation" in May Day, why try to persuade those who want to attend to leave protesting to "the anarchist who chooses to desecrate the Cenotaph"? He's right to suggest that violence last year has been used by the media to attack all those who protest, so surely he should be attacking the media hype and the attitude of the police towards protesters, not those who decide to attend the protests. Instead he piles in on their side against the protestors, which is why "Red Ken" is clearly the

by Rachel  
in Brixton



## Why 2 anti-capitalist movements?

The anti-capitalist movement is on a roll.

Activist groups like "People Not Profit" in Liverpool are springing up across the country. Campaigns like No Sweat are spreading to town, city and suburb as more and more people want to do something to expose the high street rip off of third world labour. Even old organisations like the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament are being revived as young activists take up the fight against Bush and Blair's militarism.

And the movement's potential strength isn't just the thousands who come on the demos: it's the tens of thousands beyond them who've had enough of Blair and the market and want a radical alternative to make deep change. But we need to recognise our weaknesses if we are to build on these assets: The biggest weakness of the movement in Britain is that it is deeply divided.

On the one hand, there are various anarcho collectives like the Birmingham S26 Collective and London Monopoly Mayday collective, with a wide variety of individuals and groups working together. Consensus is the rule: everyone respects other people's right to protest against capitalism in their own way. This type of collective are the instigators of not just Mayday 2001 but the anticapitalist movement itself, from the Stop the City demo in June 1999 and before.

On the other hand, the Socialist Workers Party has set up Globalise Resistance (GR) to organise for Genoa using dis-

cussion forums and actions, like the anti-Gap actions on International Women's Day last March in a dozen towns.

The collectives often seem more democratic and left-wing. The email discussion lists are full of condemnation of capitalism and the need to confront and overthrow it. But their tactics are weak. To take one example, the anarchists equate the press with police as defenders of the system. True. But the police physically smash demos and destroy movements by jailing activists and the bravest: the press just tells lies. We must demand our democratic right to reply to these outrageous lies about organising violence for Mayday. The anarchists even refuse to reach out with elementary measures like issuing press releases!

Worse, they refuse to work with the millions of workers in the trade unions and who vote in elections, saying the right-wing union tops and the talking shop of parliament are also part of the system. Just because we start from where ordinary workers are at and their immediate concerns, doesn't mean we have to drop our revolutionary politics - we do union or election work in a different way, organising workers to kick out the union bureaucrats and control their own struggles, and using elections to build grass roots organisations of struggle around demands like council housing and agitating for workers power and for revolution.

GR is the mirror opposite. It orients to unions, and is realistic about the press. But it is much less "owned" by the people involved, with the SWP effectively running it. The focus of participation is on

action after action, with the SWP discouraging political discussions.

When the politics are put in at GR meetings, they are those of reformist politicians and single-issue liberal NGOs: The Green Party, Drop the Debt, CND. It is good that these organisations will unite in action with us. However they say we can reform capitalism's institutions like the IMF, not abolish them, or get rid of capitalism. We think they are wrong. That is a valid and important debate that the movement must have.

But The SWP doesn't want revolutionaries to speak, remaining silent on these questions itself and on the question of revolution, for fear of "splitting the movement". It's already split! We need to unite it, and take the strengths of both. We need tactics to win workers, drawing the trade unions into battle, using the press and elections to our advantage. Otherwise we will be isolated and repressed by the state. We will lose.

We have to unite broad forces in action, but combine it with an honest debate about how we are going to stop capitalism from destroying our lives and wrecking the planet. If we don't give the revolutionary alternative to the liberals of the Green Party, then the movement will split in confusion at the crucial point. We have to build a movement that can go all the way.

Revolution campaigns in both wings of the movement. We fight for unity against capitalism, and to take the best from both movements and build a stronger one.

# Is this what Democracy looks like?

**A**LARM BELLS started ringing in December 1999 when the Home Office announced a new draft anti-terrorism bill which proposed powers to outlaw foreign groups in the UK who targeted foreign states. When finally passed, the Act defined terrorism as:

- The use or threat of action against person or property
- Advancing political, religious or ideological causes
- Incitement

Critics such as Liberty said that the Act was so broad that it would have affected the ANC, anti-Pinochet groups and East Timorese independence groups. And that it could be used to outlaw groups who campaigned against undemocratic regimes who were allies of the UK, such as Saudi Arabia. This effectively would give the Government powers to cherry pick which groups they wanted and which groups they didn't like.

Sure enough, in February Jack-Boot Straw acted on MI5 advice and banned 21 groups in the UK. The majority of these were Islamic and included the Kurdish separatist movement, the PKK, who have struggled for many years for self determination in the face of Turkish and Iraqi brutality.



**CENSORSHIP.** I'm sure you've all heard of it, or, if you're young like me, suffered its effects. According to the Collins English Dictionary it is 'to ban or cut anything obscene or objectionable'. But it is more than that - some group has itself censored this description. Censorship is, when you've gotten to the core of it, essentially the destruction of our right to communicate.

No matter how stupid the remark, everyone has the right to talk. To show this I'm going to take a big example. Could the demonstrations in Seattle have taken place without people the world over talking to each other? No, plain and simple. Hell, not a single Anti-Capitalist action would ever take place.

Why? Because Humans are social animals. One person cannot do everything. But the forces of Capitalism would make us think differently, they make oppression sound like protection. It is: protection from the truth, protection for themselves against the time when we all realise what they're doing. Take the Internet for example, it is in every way you look at it, a way of communicating. You have websites, message boards, chat rooms, many other ways. But still they want to stop us from talking to each other. And how do they do this? With Filters that supposedly stop us from

So who will be the next target for this repressive legislation? In January 2001, Huntingdon Life Sciences was nearly closed down when the Royal Bank of Scotland, after pressure from animal rights groups, called in its loans. Jack-Boot Straw then made noises about creating fresh legislation to tackle animal rights protesters whom he called 'frankly evil'. Under the anti-terrorism act, the Justice Department and Animal Rights Militia could be next to be banned.

## WE ARE ALL TERRORISTS NOW

It doesn't take a great leap of imagination to see that the anti-capitalist movement could soon move into the line of fire, especially if it continues to grow and draw in more and more people who see that capitalism causes misery and want to do something about it. If this happens it would be illegal for me to write this article and for you to buy this paper.

The Government and its security services will use this Act to isolate and destroy any individual and any group who threatens the interests of big business. So what can we do? The Act is already law and I doubt that it will be repealed. The defence is to build a mass movement, including workers and trade unions. There is strength in numbers and if there are enough of us, this legislation would be untenable.

by Yuen in Lewisham

seeing 'harmful' content like the many varied types of porn, Nazi propaganda and ways to make bombs. But the main question is, do they work? Well the answer is quite obviously no, what they really block, ban and filter are sites that deal with subjects like abortion, civil

rights and quite obviously sites that protest against the filters.

ators of the controversial CYBERSitter Filter program, having blocked, banned and filtered many websites, including a fairly hilarious encounter with the Roman Catholic website, which said "The Roman Catholic church denounces homosexual marriage." got filtered in to "The Roman Catholic church denounces marriage." (Hehehe).

Filter programs are supported by the most illogical reasoning, as in "Do it for the children" which is a common argument. And the way they get their results, it will never work as there are far too many words with double meanings, and how are you supposed to filter pictures?

## Why Censorship?

There are actually quite a lot of stories about the mad things filters do, for instance a person called Sheril Babcock was blocked by the filter software on her computer from registering an email address, but managed to register under Sheril Babpenis. Sites like Peacefire.org have been subjected to a long running block by Censorship filters, the companies admit it themselves. And that's what they are trying to stop us from doing. But who are they?

Well, 'they' in one particular instance, is a company called Solid Oak Software, cre-

Billionaires are free to own television networks that speak to millions of people about how great capitalism is. But they want us to stop talking to each other and exposing how capitalism destroys lives and the world, exchanging ideas on the alternatives, and organising to get rid of it. It shows the lie that capitalism equals freedom.

by James at Forrest Gate School

AS WE GO TO PRESS REPORTS ARE COMING IN THAT INDYMEDIA IN SEATTLE USA HAS BEEN SHUT DOWN BY THE FBI. Everyone should condemn this act of state suppression of the media and the web. It shows we're doing something right, and they're scared of us. Go to [www.indymedia.org.uk](http://www.indymedia.org.uk) for more details.

What do you think?  
write a letter to Revo:

paper@revolutionuk.demon.co.uk • Revolution BCM 7750 London WC1N 3XX  
& check out [www.worldrevolution.org.uk](http://www.worldrevolution.org.uk) **REVOLUTION 44 ★ 3**

# George Dubya's ma

## Militarism

He has continued the daily bombing of Iraq. In Colombia and Israel he has signalled there will be no compromise. His solution to the struggles of the Palestinians or Colombian peasants isn't a country or land and food, it is crushing them militarily.

Now his government has made a strategic shift to Asia, declaring China its main competitor, and will redeploy its forces to Asia to prepare for a future war:

- The US will arm Taiwan to the teeth with up-to-date antimissile systems, ships, submarines and planes. Steps are being taken to recognise it as a proper, separate country from China, as a step to making it a US ally and garrison state like Israel in the Middle East.
- The US military will be shaken up and reorganised, with a focus on long range bombers and airplanes able to lift tens of thousands of troops and tanks to the new frontline.
- The US will embark on National Missile Defence – "Star Wars". This will create a shield to protect the US from nukes, making a nuclear war winnable for the US so that it is free to threaten any state – such as China or Russia – without any danger of retaliation.

Tony Blair has made it clear that Britain will

In the first months of his presidency George Bush has made our world an even more dangerous place.

support the US, allowing British bases to be used as radar spotting stations for the new shield.

This means a new arms race, as other governments play catch-up in the power game – China has already stated that it will raise its arms spending by 18%. NMD alone will cost the US over \$115 billion! But besides this waste, in a world where 3 billion people live on less than \$2 a day, it signals a return to more naked competition and confrontation. It threatens to create a world war – that will go nuclear.

**So after the 100 million people killed in wars in the last century, why don't they learn?**

Because it's the way the system works and that system is called imperialism. A handful of countries – the US, Japan, Britain, etc – economically dominate the rest of the world. They compete for influence and control over countries for their markets and resources. The result is the enslavement of the third world to the banks, multinationals and governments of the West.

This competition is the basis of war. The world is divided up, so the US can only control more of the third world either if it wrests it from another country. More often, when a third world country tries to buck the system, the West crushes this threat. Either way the result is military competition and war.

You can't have capitalism without war. But you can fight militarism and the drive to war under capitalism, and build a movement that can go further and get rid of capitalism. and war forever. We need to build a mass anti-war

## Kyoto

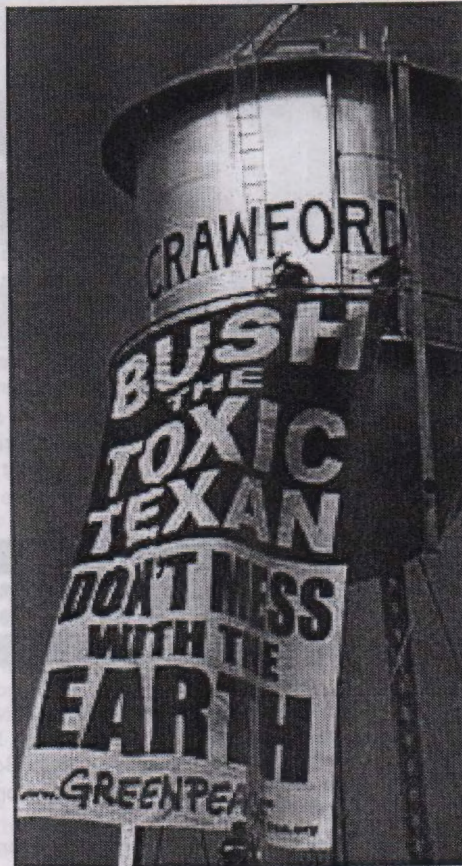
"It's not pollution that destroys air quality. It's toxic fumes and smog that destroys air quality."

Thanks for that depth of understanding, Dubya. Bush has tossed the environment into the same rubbish heap as women's rights and racial equality. The Toxic Texan has ripped up the Kyoto Protocols because "it is not in the interests of the US economy." Cutting greenhouse gas emissions is essential to slow down global warming, but that doesn't seem to make it through that thick skull of his. His oil tycoon buddies keep whispering in his ear that global warming doesn't exist, that there's no proof. That the floods, droughts and weird weather patterns are just figments of our imagination. The fact that the US is home to less than 4% of the global population, yet produces 25% of the carbon emissions is no argument, he says.

Our environment is reliant governments that are lobbied, pressured and bankrolled by the multinationals. Exxon, which last month emerged as the most profitable corporation in history, donated \$1.2 million to the Republican campaign. This is the oil company that is most opposed to the Kyoto protocols and in 1998 had 17,000 supposed scientists (such as Ginger Spice and the doctors from M\*A\*S\*H - we're not making this up!) sign a petition to say that global warming isn't happening.

The masses of people are overwhelmingly in favour of a reduction in pollution and an improvement in the quality of life. The protests at Rio, Kyoto and The Hague voiced the concerns of people all over the world. We must make this movement even bigger and take control out of the hands of the capitalists whose every move is in the name of profit. We demand an independent international body made up of representatives from the communities and workplaces whose lives are being degraded by environmental destruction.

Dubya page by Joy (Kyoto), Kat (Colombia), Andy (militarism), & Marcus (Palestine)



After less than two months in power, Ariel Sharon's right-wing Israeli government has already shown its intentions to batter the seven-month Palestinian uprising into submission. Events in the last two weeks have made this clear.

On April 15 Israel bombed Syrian positions in Lebanon, after the Lebanese guerilla group Hizbullah's killed an Israeli soldier in Lebanese territory. So much for Sharon, man of peace.

The following day, Israeli forces launched air, sea and ground attacks on the Gaza Strip after the Islamic group Hamas fired mortars on Sederot, a town in Israel just outside the Gaza Strip. The mortars exploded harmlessly with no one hurt, but Israeli forces blew up Palestinian police and security buildings in response.

Later, they re-occupied parts of Gaza Strip handed over to Palestinian control under the Oslo peace agreements. They bulldozed civilian houses and olive groves (preventing people making a living or even having somewhere to live), in the process killing one and injuring 38, using the pretext that Palestinian towns and refugee camps were havens for terrorists and vantage-points for snipers. They also sealed off the exit from Gaza into Egypt and Israel, and divided the it into two parts to prevent free movement.

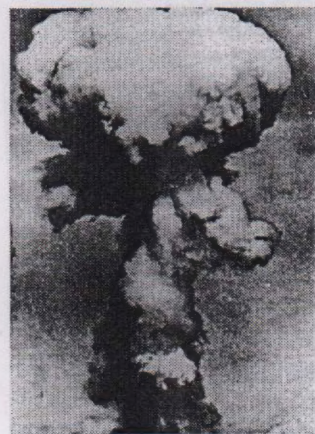
# d mad world

Websites that put the duh back in the Dubya:

- log on & give Bush a well deserved smack at [www.urban75.org](http://www.urban75.org)
- classic dubyaisms at [www.dumbya.org](http://www.dumbya.org)

movement with workers' action at the core, alongside the demos, the blockades and the airfield invasions. That's our real power. In 1999 when Indonesia began a genocide in East Timor, Australian dockers blacked all ships going in or out of Indonesia, the post workers did the same for mail, the telephone workers cut off the Indonesian embassy.

If Blair and Bush build more military installations, workers can cut off their power and communications. If they push their troops into another war, rank and file soldiers can refuse to fight, make contact with their fellow soldiers on the other side and fight together for a working class solution, and against the bosses' war.



The key to building this movement is the anticapitalist movement, and turning it to the working class and the trade unions. We can build the force that can pull the plug on the war machine – and go on to overthrow the system that builds it and drives it.

Israel's disproportionate force has meant that a total of 379 Palestinians, 71 Israelis and 13 Israeli Arabs have

died since the uprising began. Sharon's strategy has been to exert pressure on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to repress the Palestinian uprising on Israel's behalf. Sharon refuses to re-turn to the negotiating table until the uprising is over.

He knows this won't happen. His real agenda is to undermine the peace agreements made with the Palestinians since 1992 by making breaches of these agreements seem routine. But this risks provoking a regional conflict which even the US doesn't want. US secretary of state Colin Powell, fearful of the consequences of Sharon's actions, pressured Israel to withdraw from the Gaza less than 24 hours after the Israeli government had said that it might remain there for months.

We say, Palestinian people should continue their struggle against Israeli apartheid and occupation, and against their own "leaders": Arafat and his cronies have repeatedly shown that they prefer the trappings of power and the jetset of Western diplomacy over their own people. All anti-racist Israelis should show solidarity with the oppressed Palestinians, protesting against the actions of "their own" government and security forces in repressing and brutalising another people, and supporting the Palestinian struggle in the face of the popular racism and hostility to Arabs promoted by their media. Only by rejecting the prejudices of an oppressor nation will they be able to gain the trust of an oppressed people, and be able to lay the basis for a real and just peace between the Israeli and Palestinian people.

## Palestine

**T**HE CIVIL war between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the government has been going for more than four decades. Now with the inauguration of George W Bush will progress finally be made in Colombia?

Since 1960 the FARC leftwing guerillas have been fighting for social justice and economic reforms, such as a limit to the intervention of foreign multinationals in Colombia's oil industry. Over the decades they have become more powerful and now control a sector of southern Colombia the size of Switzerland and the support of nearly 100,000 civilians. The FARC finances its operations through the kidnapping of civilians in demand for ransom. In 1997 there were 1,822 cases of abduction reported. It also has strong links to the infamous drugs cartels whose coca fields they protect in return for money and guns.

The guerrillas started as part of a wave of Latin American struggles against the rich land owners who were forcing the small farmers – peasants – onto the worst land or dumping them landless into the big cities. The resulting war has led to many civilian massacres the most recent being the death of 26 civilians in the town on Chengue. 35,000 people have died in all.

Clinton allocated \$1.3 billion dollars to back Plan Colombia, an initiative to curb the production of cocaine by spraying defoliant herbicides on crops. 3,000 troops are also being trained and 60 helicopter gunships donated to fight against the FARC. More than 500 American "advisers" are on the ground controlling the offensive. The main purpose of the plan is to stop the production of cocaine which is the life blood of the civil war within Colombia.

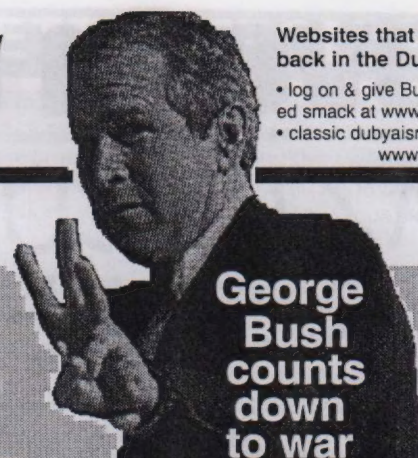
But why have Colombian peasants turned to growing coca and who profits from it? The peasants were forced off the better farm land by the right wing paramilitaries during the war, forcing them to scrape a living off a few hectares. But they sell the coca base – a cash crop – for about \$1,000 a kilo, which is then sold as cocaine in the USA and Europe for \$100,000 a kilo. Out of sheer necessity, the poor farmer is ripped off twice – first by the Colombian capitalist, then by the Western capitalist. And they're supposed to be grateful for an aid package that destroys their only means of living?!

Almost all of the aid is given in the form of military assistance and this is where the parallels between Vietnam and Colombia have been drawn. This will just escalate the violence, resulting in an increase in refugees and even more drug related activity.

Now Bush has inherited this initiative which will complicate his desire for better ties within Latin America as the military emphasis to the plan has distanced European allies and other Latin American countries who fear entanglement in the conflict.

Plan Colombia has also led to the deterioration of peace talks between the FARC and the government. The FARC refuse to resume negotiations as they feel that nothing is being done to stop the paramilitaries and that the government is using US backing to attack them. To an extent this is true. Throwing money and military hardware at the situation will not solve a 40 year war. In the last ceasefire in 1987, right wing paramilitaries slaughtered 5,000 guerrillas after they had disarmed. No wonder the FARC are sceptical!

Colombia could escalate into the next Vietnam. More than 760 people have been killed so far this year, compared to 450 in the whole of last year. And with George Bush calling the shots at the Pentagon, it is urgent that we do everything we can to stop the US stirring things up militarily. The solution to the Colombian crisis must involve Colombian and Latin American people taking control.



George Bush counts down to war

## Colombia

# Revo in action

## NAZI SCUM OFF OUR STREETS!

by Paul in southend

On the 14th of April 2001, 20 Revo members set off to stop the racist National Front (NF) marching in Bermondsey, south London. As we arrived at Bermondsey station, we could feel an air of tension and we were greeted by a sight of 20 police vans.

We walked proudly down the road holding Revo flags (in true socialist tradition!). Photographers of the national press snapped away, but our attention was caught by 2 or 3 Nazi skinheads who avoided looking at us. We joined a group of 500 plus Anti-Nazi demonstrators and listened to speeches by Trevor Phillips, Chair of the Greater London Assembly and local MP Simon Hughes, of Southwark Trade Council and an anti-racist campaigner.

As the speeches were being made, the police started to pen us in. Most people did not realise this was going on, but Revo did and we tried to stay out for as long as possible. Word got around that the police were re-routing the march and we managed to get out of the pen.

We congregated by a railway bridge, where we were met by 5/6 lines of police. We engaged in a stand-off with the police for about 10

We received a message that the National Front march had set off. As the march came down a side road near us, we all charged forward, linked arms and pushed. A chant of "Nazi scum off our streets" began, followed by "Who protects the Nazis? The police protect the Nazis". For every 5 steps we moved forward, we were pushed back 6. As the last Nazi came past, we turned and headed down the road to find a route to Bermondsey tube station, which was to be the end of the NF march. Unfortunately by the time we arrived, the Nazis had been escorted out of the area by the police. We did not stop the NF march but we sent a message out to the NF and the BNP that we shall give them no platform to air their racist views and to show them that local people, black and white, want "NAZI SCUM OFF OUR STREETS!"

For more info on the Anti-Nazi league, visit [www.anl.org](http://www.anl.org)

## Tube plan may destroy Camden

There have always been a few places in London that have their own alternative culture. Places where people of all ages, races and sexual preferences could mix, and which reject the conformist consumer mono-culture and rip-off prices of the high street.

Today it is Camden, but perhaps not for long. Soon, it might be covered with big chains and yuppie flats, with the cheap market stalls and small businesses squeezed out.

London Underground has applied for planning permission to build an enlarged landmark tube station in Camden Town, in replacement of the existing station, which was built in 1907. The developments are to include large units suitable for high street chain stores, a multi-screen cinema, restaurants, cafes, as well as offices in and around the high street area.

Their managing director, Derek Smith says that the development is "a wonderful opportunity to create an attractive, much enlarged new station, which will be a real boon for local residents and businesses."

But have Smith, or any of the other relevant authorities considered where the gen-

uine interests of these developments lie? To provide space for this, the entire Inverness Street market, as well as the Electric Ballroom market will

be demolished. A boon for local residents and businesses? Not exactly – a boon for Macdonald's, Burger King, Nike and Adidas, for the global chain stores which are to invade Camden. – and a crushing blow for the independent traders of alternative music, fashion, original crafts, antiques, literature, jewellery, books, art, paintings (not to mention severe inconvenience for hundreds of local residents while re-development is underway).

Developing Camden's transport services, relieving congestion, and shortening journey times are not such a bad idea.

But is it really necessary to build even more of the type of cinemas, designer shops and fast-food restaurants that are becoming the characteristic feature of the Western high street? The NW3 area is simply heaving with them, but apparently there aren't enough. Dawn Somber, Tory MP for Camden states defiantly: "It is a bright area with lots of visitors, but it looks terrible – modern design would uplift the dowdy area around the station." – and probably take away a lot of what makes it distinctive.

There are now plans to "do up" the stables market by building a brick and glass building

## FREE MARIO BANGO!

On Monday, 23 April protests took place in London and several other European capitals calling for the release of Mario Bango, an 18-year-old Roma youth, who has been in detention in Slovakia since early March. He is threatened with up to 15 years prison.

His crime? He defended his brother when he was brutally attacked by a Neo-Nazi. The Nazi later died in hospital. Mario's family – as with many other Roma in Slovakia – was repeatedly attacked and threatened in the past. His brother spent one week in hospital last year after an attack by skinheads.

There has been an ongoing racist campaign in the Slovak Republic against Roma people. Now the authorities want to make an example of Mario. In the media there is a campaign against the "gypsy" Mario and open sympathy for the deceased "patriotic and honourable citizen". The Slovak parliament even held a minute's silence for the dead Nazi! The state prosecutor now wants to charge Mario with murder.

Since we consider Mario's defence of his brother as legitimate self-defence we demand:

■ DROP ALL CHARGES AGAINST MARIO  
SELF-DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE!  
■ IMMEDIATELY RELEASE MARIO FROM PRISON!

■ STOP THE DISCRIMINATION AND PERSECUTION OF ROMA PEOPLE IN SLOVAKIA!

Committees in defence of Mario Bango have been formed in Slovakia, Czech Republic and in several countries an international solidarity campaign is underway. To help contact [mario@revolutionuk-demon.co.uk](mailto:mario@revolutionuk-demon.co.uk)

where the market can be placed. This new market will no doubt contain more global mono-cultural chains. The stalls will probably cost a bomb to rent, once again pushing out the small business that are there now.

Why are we trying to give Camden an air of upmarket snobbery, when its representative of so much less than that, and yet so much more?

# GAP

One of the stores coming to Camden is the sweatshop slavedrivers known as Gap. We want to give them a warm reception when they open up in May. Big business or small business, all of them sell

sweatshop clothes, and pay their workers here who sell the stuff to us crap wages. The landlords who own Camden and its shops have found a way to make more money by selling it off to developers of yuppie flats and high-priced shops, with council approval.

We want to unite those who don't have a say in these behind-closed-doors deals, and who will be most affected: the youth for whom Camden is an alternative culture area, with its clubs, canal, and market; and the local working class whose houses and estates will soon see rent rises. We should fight for the people who live, work and play in Camden to determine its fate and plan its future, not millionaire landlords and council bureaucrats. **phone REVO for campaign details 0207 793 1468**

by Rachel & Dave in N. London

# Homeless need homes not Labour's policies

IN NOVEMBER 2000, the government launched its 'Change A Life' campaign. This includes a £250,000 advertising campaign to persuade the public to stop giving money to beggars and instead to donate to homeless charities. Several homeless agencies have dubbed it "an anti-begging initiative". We are no longer simply exploited in the workplace, we are now also being told how to spend the money that we have earned! And what a beggar does with the money she has been given is also a matter of personal choice.

The 'Change A Life' campaign focuses on rough sleepers, the most visible of the homeless. There are however thousands of homeless households in hostels and B & Bs. The government intends to reduce the number of rough-sleepers on Britain's streets by two-thirds by 2002. Official counts have shown a decrease in the number of rough sleepers over the past few years, though that might be due to the way an 'official count' is done, where people are to be included only if they are found to be lying down and sleeping on the street between 3am and 5am! The next count is April 29th.

In November 2000, a study was published about paths into homelessness, by interviewing homeless people in Camden's Homeless Persons Unit, London. The study revealed that the average time between the 'triggers' that lead to homelessness and when homelessness finally occurs is 9 years. Some of the key 'trigger factors' found were unemployment, the ineffective benefit system, high rents, a lack of family friends or relationships that could help out, the fact that there's not enough hostels and the ones that exist are often unpleasant and dangerous.

I spent the winter working in a shelter for homeless people in the London Borough of Redbridge. I worked with people who had become homeless because of a wide variety of reasons and was struck by how easy it would be to become homeless. Imagine that you lose your job, you are unable to pay your rent and bills, you may start drinking to escape reality, your partner breaks up with you, you lose your flat and you are homeless.

Interventions such as 'Change A Life', cold weather shelters and giving money to people begging on the street do not provide long-term solutions to the problem of homelessness. They are as good as sticking a plaster on an ulcer which desperately needs major surgery. Tackling homelessness initiatives are reactive responses rather than proactive ones. Homelessness will persist until a real long-term solution is found.

The long-term holistic solution is radical change. Within the issues of homelessness, we see the ills of capitalism magnified. We live in a society which does not by its very nature work for all that are part of it. Social exclusion, of which homelessness is a visible symptom, is an inevitable feature of capitalism.

Volunteers ran the shelter for homeless people which I worked at. I was touched by the amount of time, energy and love that people gave homeless people in their community. People do not want to see others suffering and do not need Tony Blair telling them how to 'Change A Life'.

Who does the Labour government think it is to dare to use homeless people as a scapegoat for the mess which it has created. Homeless people are victims of the capitalist Labour government. Instead of spending a measly £250,000 on an advertising campaign which stigmatises homeless people, how about building affordable housing?

Let's work for radical change so that we can 'Change A Life' for all in society. Let's create a society that works for everyone in it.

**by Kath in Brixton**

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**www.worldrevolution.org.uk**

## LETTER FROM GENOA

All demonstrations during G8 in Genoa are being made illegal. Activists, Rifundazione Comunista, and YA BASTA are quite worried that the first thing they will have to do in Genoa is to gain the right to demonstrate and possibly battle with the police even before they get to Genoa.

The task is to first of all regain the right to demonstrate. There are a lot of initiatives all around Italy. Different 'deals' are being offered by the government, for example the possibility to stage a protest in a place nearby Genoa (the place hasn't been decided, it is just an idea from the government to keep the protestors away from Genoa). Of course, this is not acceptable to the movement and they want to be guaranteed the right to protest in Genoa with the aim to stop the G8 meeting and not just in any other town. YA BASTA IS GOING THERE WITH THE AIM TO STOP THE MEETING, not just to demonstrate.

The decision hasn't yet been made as whether the G8 will meet in the city centre or in the middle of the sea. Some people (mainly YA BASTA, but also other autonomous social centres) are thinking about an approach by sea, but it is not feasible for everyone.

I have heard there will be lots of affinity groups meeting in the run up to Genoa and also an International Tute Bianche (white overalls) meeting (the Finnish apparently have hundreds of Tute Bianche). The affinity groups meeting is planning actual rehearsals for Genoa.

The effects of Berlusconi's probable election victory and the effects of the bomb in Rome (claimed by the Revolutionary Proletarian Group) are already being felt. There are suspicions around the social centres that the bomb was planted by the government in order to discredit the anti capitalist movement. Last week the YA BASTA centre in Venice was under attack by the police and there was a great mobilisation to try and stop eviction.

Rome's social centres seem to be waking up a bit and today I have received an email which talks about organising an anti-capitalist demo as alternative to the usual Mayday free concert sponsored by trade unions. I will keep you informed also about that.

**Ciao, Fran**

**make a date to meet the G8, in  
GENOA**

**followed by the World Revolution  
GLOBAL GATHERING**

The G8 are the world's most powerful countries, meeting in Genoa this July. They are the driving force behind the arms trade and militarism, the corporate takeover of the world and the third world debt, poverty and starvation. Organised against their global domination, this demonstration will make history, so get ready to go Italian... Afterwards, the global gathering will bring together hundreds of youth after Genoa, from all over Europe and beyond, to build the links and create a new international, anti-capitalist youth organisation for the new millennium.

## JOIN REVOLUTION

- ☐ I want a subscription to 6 issues (£2) ☐ I want to join Revo ☐ I want \_\_\_ Revos to sell (30p each) ☐ I want to come to Genoa ☐ No thanks I'm going to be a stockbroker

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# MAYDAY PROTEST! or Apocalypse Now?

The "scale of ridiculousness" as such, has been increasing:

**April 01** The Daily Telegraph and the Financial Times – "Two hundred police officers staged a dawn raid on a secret training centre for anarchists who are planning to bring chaos to London on May Day.....The building had been chosen as the site for drilling 500 rioters in preparations for attacks on police." The Financial Times in a similar story even equated the people who used the "training centre" with the Real IRA. In fact the it was a disused factory used for gigs, parties, meetings and making banners. Although the police did seize some training material, which turned out to be a pair of white overalls.

**April 08** The Observer – We are informed that, "armed rapid response units have been put on standby"!!!!

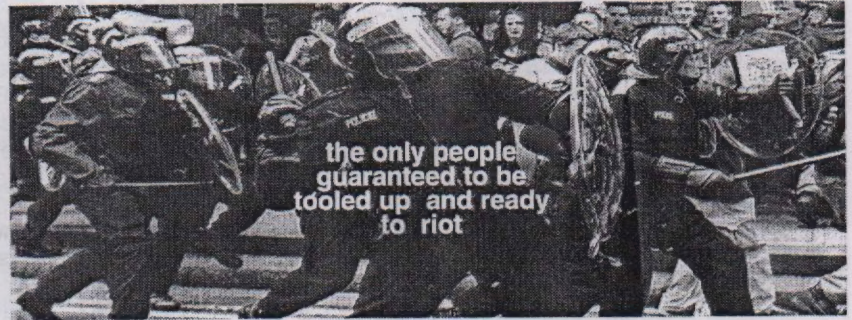
**April 05** The Guardian – "Anti-capitalist protesters are planning to repeat the violence seen on MayDay 2000.....by 150,000 people....."In fact 10,000 people attended and the "violence" actually amounted to a few smashed windows and some graffiti.

**April 14** The Guardian ran another article a week later under the title MayDay Mayhem? outlining the movement's "road to violence".

**April 18** The Evening Standard – Under the title "London rioters train at US camps" we are told that a hard core of 1,000 anarchists have been using these camps in preparation for violent demonstrations. So far Revo has yet to find someone who has been to these camps in the whole of the of the MayDay collective.....

**April 18** The Evening Standard (again!) – In another article titled "Anarchists to loot Oxford Street" The Standard tells us that "protesters hope to occupy.....MI5 garages".....hmmmmmm need we say more?!

**April 22:** The Observer reports that sharpshooters and armed units are on standby to deal with samurai sword wielding protestors! Hail!



## Police will riot

This deliberate policy of hyping the potential for violence out of all proportion is part of a three-pronged strategy by the police and the government.

First, it is to scare as many people off from turning up as possible  
Second, it is to justify both police brutality and the draconian legislation that has recently been passed in parliament.  
Third, it is to make sure that the actual issues that we are demonstrating against are kept out of the public domain. No surprise there, considering that capitalism is pretty hard to defend, killing more people every three years through poverty than the Nazis and WWII killed in six.

This tactic is a classic example of the "iron fist in the velvet glove". As soon as the ruling classes feel threatened civil liberties and democracy are thrown out of the window. Already the Italian authorities are talking of banning demonstrations in Genoa altogether (see p.7). The anti-terrorist bill in Britain has recently outlawed several organisations and it has been raised by police that these laws could also be used against the anti-capitalist protesters (see p. 3).

When mass movements grow in power the class struggle is sharply brought into focus. This is when questions of workers and demonstrators being able to defend their strikes and protests come to the fore. As socialists we believe that self-defence is no offence - and we believe in standing up for our democratic right to protest.

The anti-capitalist movement shows every sign of continuing to grow and at every turn we should resist the attempts of the state to take away our right to assert our belief for a society based on human need rather than the barbaric greed of a tiny minority.

Dan In Lewsiham



PHOTO BY GUY SMALLMAN

more and more ridiculous

absolutely  
ridiculous